

FCC MAIL ROOM

DEC 20 1996

RECEIVED

PHILLIPS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
HOME HEALTH AGENCY
COURTHOUSE ANNEX -- 784 6TH ST.
PHILLIPSBURG, KS. 67661
913-543-6850
FAX # 913-543-6852

Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Room 222
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington D.C. 20554

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Reference: CC Docket No. 96-45

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing regarding the important ramifications to rural local health departments of the 1996 Telecommunications Act. As the local governmental presence in this rural area, charged with responsibility for protecting and promoting the health of all the rural residents in the area, the ability to communicate electronically throughout the state and nation is imperative.

Local health departments are very important health care providers. For example, we are charged with responsibility for preventing and curbing epidemics, responding to disasters such as toxic spills, floods, the effects of hurricanes, etc. In these situations, access to the most up-to-date information from our federal health agencies, such as the CDC, FDA is critical. Receiving information from FEMA and other agencies in a timely fashion is critical to developing a systematic and comprehensive response at the local level. Better access to information and disease-prevention protocols at the times, and especially in emergencies, is essential for the provision of health care and will save lives.

We are pleased that local health departments are included in this Act. Linking all of the nation's rural health departments will assure that a information infrastructure is available for all Americans.

Please contact me for any further information that would help the FCC make its determination.

Sincerely,

Linda Shelton, Adm.

Linda Shelton, ADM., MSN, RN
cc: Nancy Rawding, NACCHO

No. of Copies rec'd
List ABCDE

024

DEC 20 1996

RECEIVED

DEC 16 1996 4:29PM LOGAN CO HEALTH DEPT
12/16/96 SUN 15:54 FAX 316 884 2182
ED GARNER
NACCMO

G SNO.338ELD P.3 0004

0001

Questions to Address:

1. Name of project: Phillips County KS Health Dept

2. Please list each of the project's sites:

Name of Site:

State in which it is located:

Please answer the following questions for each of your sites.
Use additional sheets if necessary.

3. What is the nearest city of population equal to or greater than 50,000 in your state, and approximately how far are you from its boundary?

city: Wichita Distance from city boundary: 230 mi

4. Name of the project's telecommunications service provider:

5. Level of telecommunications service the project is currently using: (For example, voice grade, 144 Kbps (ISDN), 384 Kbps, T-1 or equivalent)

6. Charges for telecommunications service:

Is there a monthly charge? No ☐ Yes ☒

If yes, how much is the charge? _____

Is there a usage-based charge? No ☐ Yes ☒

If yes, how much is the charge? _____

Is there a distance component (such as a per-mile fee) of the charge? No ☐ Yes ☐

If yes, how much is the charge? _____

Was there an installation fee? No ☐ Yes ☒

If yes, how much was the charge? _____

Is the charge the regular tariffed rate, or is there a discount from the telecommunications provider? Tariffed ☒ Discount ☐

If there is a discount, how much is it? _____

7. How does the project use telecommunications in the delivery of health care? (For example -- to send x-rays, distribute public health information, or perform video consultations. Please identify any occasional or episodic uses, such as might result from an outbreak of disease.)

Video consultations - lab - X-rays
Distribution of Public Health Info
Continuing Education Classes
Access to State Epidemiologist in Case of Outbreaks
"Experts" to Consult
Procedural changes - updates for specific programs, eg FP

8. Could the project provide the services it is currently providing with less bandwidth? What effect would a lesser level of bandwidth have? (The implications of using greater or lesser levels of telecommunications services are related to image transmission time. What would be the impact if the health care activities for which you now use telecommunications took twice as long, or if they could be completed in half the time?)

9. What would the implications of having a greater level of bandwidth be?

10. Do you have e-mail? No ☒ Yes ☐

11. Do you have Internet access? No ☒ Yes ☐

If yes, do you incur long-distance charges by using it?

No ☐ Yes ☒

Please estimate your number of hours of Internet use per month:

12. If you have access to the Internet, please list any purposes other than e-mail (such as accessing databases such as Lexis/Nexis) for which you use it:
